In 2018, The Conservation Alliance distributed $1.9 million to 55 organizations working to protect our nation’s wild places.

Our grantees delivered 16 important conservation victories that: protected 193,683 acres of land and five river miles, removed four dams, and purchased one climbing area. We work hard to identify opportunities to protect and conserve our wild places, bringing our voices to decision-makers in Washington, DC and on the local level. By collecting evidence and working with others, we are able to achieve better outcomes for the public lands system.

We are committed to helping protect the land while ensuring that the public can access these places. Our work helps the public lands system to remain healthy and vibrant, ensuring that future generations can experience all that the public lands have to offer.

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Study Areas against three bills that would eliminate protections for more than $15,000 of public lands in Montana. The Montana Wilderness Association (MWA) is a leading advocate for public lands in Montana, and they are challenging in court the rules of NEPA and thereby maintaining our first line of defense in protecting the public lands system.

In Utah, which would likely undermine the current protections for these lands. Friends of Cedar Mesa (FOCM) played a key role in securing the Bears Ears National Monument designation, which protected 1.8 million acres of BLM land in Utah in 2016. President Trump signed an order that attempts to reduce the size of the Monument. Bears Ears, challenging the legislation that would codify the Monument's boundaries and undermine the conservation management Rule, and permission to develop its own plan to manage roadless areas in Utah, which would likely undermine the current protections for these lands.

In September, on the eve of the expiration of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, we headed to Washington DC to pressure members of Congress to reauthorize the LWCF, and made our voices heard at one of the final votes of a legislative session that is offering scant hope of meaningful action on conservation. Together, we determined that our public lands are now threatened by political leaders who want to undermine the protections in place for these lands.

In October, we launched the Public Lands Defense Fund in January, 2017 with multi-year commitments from our members. A grantmaking program designed to identify and support high-impact projects and campaigns that can help protect the public lands system. We made grants totaling $20,000 to the following organizations:

- Western Environmental Law Center
- Trout Unlimited
- The Conservation Alliance
- Friends of the Columbia Gorge
- The Waccamaw Watershed Council
- Appalachian Trail Conservancy
- The Barn Bouldering Group
- Save the Redwoods League
- The Soda Mountain Wilderness Council
- The Appalachian Trail Conservancy
- The Barn Bouldering Group
- Save the Redwoods League
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The Conservation Alliance Legacy Fund

Leading Edge Program

The Conservation Alliance launched the Leading Edge Program in 2016 to provide the opportunity for a select group of leaders in the outdoor industry to contribute at levels above and beyond the standard annual dues. Leading Edge members are key influencers in their respective industries and are recognized for their significant contributions to the conservation movement.

In 2019, the Leading Edge held its inaugural philanthropy and networking retreat in Bend, Oregon. The program features discussions and activities designed to foster leadership development and collective impact in the industry. The Alliance is grateful to the Leading Edge members for their ongoing commitment, including $5,000 contributions in 2019.

The Conservation Alliance is committed to increasing the amount of funding we can contribute to protect wild places. Leading Edge members are key influencers in their respective industries, and their contributions help us reach our goal.

BACKYARD COLLECTIVE PROGRAM

In 2019, the Backyard Collective Program brought together members of the Conservation Alliance in our own backyards. The BYC program brings outdoor companies together to get involved in conservation projects in their own backyards. The program is designed to provide opportunities for members to engage with local communities and conservation organizations around protecting wild places.

In 2019, the Conservation Alliance worked with members to facilitate a number of back yard projects:

Portland, OR: 
- 700 young trees and clear 25,000 sq ft of invasive weeds.

Seattle, WA: 
- Council to clear trail and fire access routes, establish new trails, build new drain dips, construct a new rock wall, and remove invasive plants.

In 2018, 1220 volunteers from 69 member companies participated in on-the-ground volunteer efforts in their local communities, while taking action. These events allow us to get out of our offices and take a more active role in protecting wild places.

CONSERVATION ALLIANCE MEMBERS

The Conservation Alliance is a collaborative network of outdoor companies committed to protecting wild places and encouraging more people to get outside and enjoy nature. We work with our members and partners to increase the amount of funding we can contribute to protect wild places. To join, companies must be in operation for at least three years and be able to commit a minimum of $5,000 annually to the Conservation Alliance.